

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124247 POSS DUPE
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;MLEVITSKY:REH
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-----115662 162057Z /73

O R 161847Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW AND TBILISI TRIALS

REF: MOSCOW 10794

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE BEING USED BY DEPARTMENT IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT MAY 15 PRESS BRIEFING:
2. "Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REGARD THE
TRIALS OF ORLOV AND THE TWO GEORGIANS (ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA
AND MERAB KOSTAVA) AND THE CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST IGOR
BELOUSOVITCH AS BEING AIMED AT THE US?
3. "A. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ATTEMPT TO INTERPRET THE
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MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THE TBILISI TRIAL. HOWEVER, WE CERTAIN-
LY REGRET THE FACT THAT SUCH CHARGES HAVE BEEN LEVELED
AGAINST MR. BELOUSOVITCH.

4. "MR. BELOUSOVITCH IS A 56-YEAR-OLD CAREER EMPLOYEE WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE SERVED IN MOSCOW FROM JANUARY
1976 UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER 1977, ON A ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT.

HE DID MEET MR. GAMSAKHURDIA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. THESE MEETINGS WERE PERFECTLY OPEN AND THERE WAS NOTHING CLANDESTINE ABOUT THEM. ON ONE OCCASION, AT MR. GAMSAKHURDIA'S REQUEST, MR. BELOUSOVITCH GAVE HIM WRITTEN MATERIALS PUBLISHED AND FREELY AVAILABLE IN THE WEST, SUCH AS RECENT WORKS BY NOBEL LAUREATE ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN. THE PUBLICATIONS WERE PROVIDED FOR MR. GAMSAKHURDIA'S INFORMATION AND BECAUSE OF HIS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THEM.

5. "Q. WHEN DID WE MOST RECENTLY EXPRESS OUR CONCERN TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT THE ORLOV AND OTHER TRIALS?

6. "A. WE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST ORLOV AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP WHEN THEY WERE FIRST ARRESTED, AND AGAIN DURING THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE, AND HAVE FOLLOWED UP ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS." VANCE

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